

5-9-2008

News Reports on the Brenda Martin Case

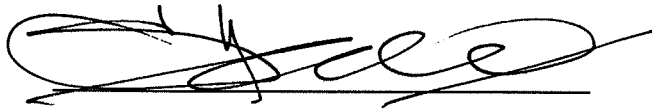
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THIS IS EXHIBIT E TO THE
AFFIDAVIT OF JO WOOD
SWORN ON JULY 16, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Wood", written over a horizontal line.

A Commissioner for Taking Affidavits

Brenda Martin out of prison, goes home to mom

Brenda Martin hugs her mother Marjorie Bletcher as arrives in Trenton, Ontario Friday May 9, 2008. (Fred Chartrand / THE CANADIAN PRESS)



Brenda Martin hugs her mother Marjorie Bletcher in Trenton, Ontario Friday May 9, 2008. (Fred Chartrand / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

CTV.ca News Staff

Updated: Fri. May. 9 2008 9:40 PM ET

Brenda Martin, the Canadian who was recently transferred back home after spending more than two years behind bars in Mexico, was released on parole Friday afternoon.

She is now back home with her mother in Trenton, Ont., where she wished Marjorie Bletcher a happy Mother's Day.

She walked out of the Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener, Ont., earlier carrying a large plastic bag of her belongings. She had been held at the prison since returning to Canada on May 1.

Stepping into an awaiting car, an emotional Martin cried and thanked people she called "the three heroes" in her life -- her mother, her childhood friend and staunch advocate Deb Tieleman, and an Edmonton newspaper reporter who brought her case into the public eye.

Speaking briefly to reporters waiting for her outside the prison she said she was going to her family home where she would "cook dinner for my mother and step father and Debbie (Tieleman)."

Some of the conditions of Martin's parole include disclosing her financial records, and not having contact with convicted criminals. A Mexican court found her guilty of involvement in a fraud scam run by her former boss. Martin, 51, had said she was innocent.

National Parole Board spokesperson Carol Sparling said Martin was not a high risk offender.

"Those offenders are reviewed with only one criteria, which is if there is reasonable likelihood of them committing a violent offence," she said.

"The board found that there was no evidence in violence in this case and directed full parole release."

Martin's lawyer said he was relieved when he heard the news of his client's release.

"Thank God this process is over for her," Guillermo Cruz Rico told CTV Newsnet Friday evening.

He suggested that Martin could have some options should she wish to try to fight

her conviction in Mexico.

Martin's plight garnered widespread public attention, pressuring the Canadian government to take up her case with Mexican officials. Ottawa eventually dispatched Conservative MPs Jason Kenney and Rick Norlock to Mexico.

Earlier this month, the Conservative government flew her back to Canada in a private jet -- that cost \$83,000 to charter -- and transferred her to the Grand Valley Institution.

Brenda Martin granted parole

Mexican judge sentenced Trenton, Ont., woman to 5 years in prison

Last Updated: Friday, May 9, 2008 | 9:46 PM ET [Comments233](#) [Recommend125](#)

CBC News

Brenda Martin, a Canadian who spent more than two years in a Mexican prison before being transferred to Canada earlier this month, was granted parole Friday and released from a southern Ontario jail.



Brenda Martin leaves the Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener on Friday. (CBC) Martin, from Trenton, Ont., had been working in Mexico and was found guilty in April of money laundering by a Mexican judge. She had been in a Guadalajara-area jail since 2006, with the past few months spent sedated and on suicide watch.

On May 1, Martin was flown in a government-chartered jet to Waterloo, Ont., where she was taken to the nearby Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener by Corrections Service of Canada officials. The flight cost Canadian taxpayers \$82,727, CBC News learned.

The parole board said that Martin is considered a first-time offender and would be unlikely to commit a violent crime if released.

Martin said she found out at about 4:30 p.m. ET Friday that she'd been granted full parole.

"I was waiting all day," Martin told reporters as she left the prison in a car driven by her longtime friend Deb Tieleman. "When two guards came ... and they said, 'Brenda, your parole officer wants to see you,' I went, 'Oh my God, maybe I'm getting out.'"

Martin and Tieleman, who were both highly critical of the federal government's response to her case, were en route to Trenton to see Martin's mother.

Martin was eligible for parole immediately upon arrival at a Canadian facility, as she had already served one-third of her sentence, counting time served before the verdict.

The parole board ordered Martin not to associate with known criminals and she is required to make financial disclosures, the CBC's Paul Hunter said.



Brenda Martin spent 26 months in a Mexican prison before being transferred to Canada earlier this month. (Paul Hunter/CBC) "What isn't a surprise is overall that it was an accelerated process," he said. "I think everyone from the get-go understood that this would happen relatively quickly."

Martin, 51, was accused of participating in a \$60 million internet fraud scheme run by Canadian Alyn Waage, who was convicted in the U.S. in 2006 of fraud and is serving a 10-year term in an American prison.

Mexican investigators said Martin, who worked as Waage's chef in Puerto Vallarta for 10 months, accepted a severance package knowing the money came from the scam.

Martin maintained her innocence, saying she knew nothing of Waage's schemes. Waage's testimony corroborated her story.

With files from the Canadian Press

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dawgday17 wrote:Posted 2008/05/09

at 5:21 PM ET Oh god... please, please let this one go away...

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freakyfred2 wrote:Posted 2008/05/09

at 5:33 PM ET It's funny how people automatically assume that she is innocent because it happened in Mexico, like the Mexicans put her in jail because they just felt like throwing a Canadian in jail. Get real people!!! You do the crime, you do the time, I just hope she at least has to pay for the private jet back to Canada, the tax payers shouldn't have to!!

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MichaelAC wrote:Posted 2008/05/09

at 5:35 PM ET Oh man... This woman is getting such a free ride
So now when will the book deal be signed?

Go away Brenda.

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Writeguy 63 wrote:Posted 2008/05/09

at 5:31 PM ET I couldn't agree with dawgday17 more. I'm tired of this whining hag. I have no time for those who threaten suicide. Why? Because those who are going through with it don't make it known. She's an attention craving, self seeking, unaccountable, irresponsible cry baby. Nothing the government has done is good enough for her short of walking into some other country's prison and saying we're taking one of our own back. I wish they'd kept her in - and the cameras out. Be prepared, however. The book deal is surely on its way and this will be far from the last we hear of Brenda Martin.

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EdwardEwacha wrote:Posted 2008/05/09

at 6:06 PM ET I really hope that Brenda Martin publically apologises to the Canadian Government for her harsh comments after all they have done for her. In addition I would like to see her reimburse somehow Canadians through volunteer services or financial donations for to charities for all the costs she has incurred on Canadian taxpayers.

I for one believe if you abandon your country in favour of another for more than a couple years, don't come crawling back the moment things don't go your way.

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